

## Internal Memo

**To:** All RCSI Staff & Council  
**From:** Cathal Kelly (CEO)  
**Subject:** CEO Monthly Update  
**Date:** May 4<sup>th</sup> 2012

Dear Colleague,

With summer (apparently!) now upon us and as we approach the end of the 2011-2012 Academic year, another year has gone by in the blink of an eye. There is a real buzz in the College as graduations approach.

I would like to draw your attention to some recent developments:

### **BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLANNING**

In the event of a disaster (e.g. major flood, fire etc.) it is very important that we are able to carry on doing business. As part of our plans to ensure what is known as Business Continuity Management, and as IT systems are so embedded in the ability to carry on our business, the IT Department has moved our computer systems and data to a state of the art data centre managed by HEAnet in the Parkwest business campus. This move has been done with minimum disruption to the day-to-day operation of our IT Systems and has had little impact on the business. Our old computer room, housed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of 123, will still be maintained and will contain a copy of our data and systems and these will be updated on a regular basis from the data and systems in the data centre.

What this means is if either the data centre or the old IT computer room were impacted by a serious disaster, that our IT systems and data would be available within a 24 hour period. Great credit goes to the IT Department, and in particular **Martin Barron, Ciaran Butler and Ciaran Kennedy**, to bring this robustness to our IT systems which are key to us operating our business.

### **BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AT RCSI**

A new business development function has been established in the College to provide services and support to staff to develop ideas into successful ventures. External parties who wish to collaborate with the College will also be supported by business development. This function is being operated by **Fiona Walsh** and overseen by **Michael McGrail** and over the last two months it has begun to support a wide range of external requests for collaboration. To continue to foster the entrepreneurial spirit of RCSI's staff, the business development unit will ensure that the staff member who is championing a project will continue to lead on the project, supported by business development. If you have an idea or require further information, please contact Fiona Walsh at [bd@rcsi.ie](mailto:bd@rcsi.ie).

## **HEALTH INSURANCE**

To support staff in reviewing their insurance cover, we have now retained the services of Dermot Good from the Cornmarket Group. Dermot has a good track record in securing better value deals. Presentations will be held in the Albert Theatre, RCSI St. Stephen's Green at 12.30 on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Anyone interested in attending should email Amanda Farrell, Human Resources [amandafarrell@rcsi.ie](mailto:amandafarrell@rcsi.ie)

## **INSTITUTE OF LEADERSHIP**

The Institute of Leadership has recently published its new Prospectus for 2012 – 2013. Please click on the link <http://www.rcsiladership.org/index.jsp?p=0&n=303>

## **MED ED NEWS LETTER**

Thank you to **Camilla Weymss** and **John Quinlan** who produced the 2012 'Med Ed' Newsletter – our annual summary of innovations in education across all RCSI disciplines and sites. It's an excellent summary of many people's enterprise and hard work to improve our educational activities. If you think you can distribute copies in useful places, please feel welcome to ask Camilla for paper or electronic copies (first floor, Faculty Centre, St Stephens Green) [<cwemyss@rcsi.ie>](mailto:cwemyss@rcsi.ie)

## **DEPARTMENT OF SURGICAL AFFAIRS**

### **New Professional Development Programme for NCHDs in Surgery and Emergency Medicine**

Congratulations to the Department of Surgical Affairs (DoSA) who recently launched a new Professional Development Programme for non-consultant hospital doctors (NCHDs) working in the fields of surgery and emergency medicine. The Programme has been commissioned and funded by the Health Service Executive (HSE) to facilitate NCHDs within the public health service, who are not on training schemes, to maintain their professional competence in line with the Irish Medical Council requirements. Special thanks to **Eunan Friel, Caroline McGuinness, Michelle Hill, Anthony Whelan, Jane Cunningham, Eva Doherty, Marie O'Boyle and Kieran Tangney** for their great work to ensure the successful launch of this programme.

## **2012-2013 RCSI Fellows and Members Programme**

DoSA has also just launched the 2012-2013 RCSI Fellows and Members Programme. Paid-up Fellows and Members of the College are now entitled to a suite of professional and personal benefits. Also, where a doctor is required to enroll on our Professional Competence Scheme (PCS), a substantial discount is available if paying the PCS fee and RCSI subscription together online. Thank you to **Paul Nolan, Louise Sherwin** and **Marie O'Boyle** at DoSA for all their hard work on the re-launch of the Programme and to **Niamh Burdett** and **Robert Magee** in Communications for their assistance. Sincere thanks also to **Leila Wilson, Eoin Keith** and **Kenneth Purtell** in the IT Dept. for their commitment to the project and for playing such an integral role in the specification and development of the required IT system.

## **RCSI Careers Symposium 2012**

RCSI was delighted to host its third careers symposium for medical students on Saturday 21st April which was attended by over 300 students. The event was organised by **Alice McGarvey**. Speakers were invited to inform the students about opportunities for post graduate training opportunities in the States, Far East, Malta, Australia, United Kingdom and Ireland. The symposium was composed of individual presentations followed by a number of breakout question and answer sessions. This event is part of ongoing programme to ensure that RCSI students are prepared and well informed on graduation to join the workforce and commence their post graduate education.

## **RESEARCH**

### **RESEARCH DAY**

The Annual Research Day took place on Wednesday 25th April, showcasing the breath of research taking place in RCSI across the disciplines including cancer research, respiratory medicine, tissue engineering and sexual health research. A new Health Professions Education Award presented for the first time to **Theresa Keane**, Institute of Leadership. In the early career investigators category, **Dr Magdalena Mroz**, Molecular Medicine, won The Barnes Medal for her oral presentation and **Dr Vinciane Saint-Criq**, Molecular Medicine, won the best poster award. **Dr Killian Hurley**, Department of Medicine, won the Mundipharma Pharmaceuticals Prize for best post-graduate oral research and **Alba Jimenez-Pacheco**, Physiology and Medical Physics, received the post-graduate poster prize.

The PhD scholars' winners were **Sudipto Das**, Cancer Genetics who received the Roche Gold Medal and Erica Tierney, Anatomy, recipient of the poster presentation award. The undergraduate winners were **Aine McCarthy** (Dr. Harry O'Flanagan Prize) and **William Leitch** (Poster Prize). Congratulations to the Research Day Coordinators: **Professor Fergal O'Brien, Stephanie O'Connor and Clare Muckian** for their stellar work in organising this event, which was attended by more than 300 RCSI researchers and their collaborators.

## **DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY**

**Ian Kelleher**, PhD student of **Mary Cannon** from the **Department of Psychiatry**, was invited to present his work on psychotic symptoms among young people at a Webinar organised by the Schizophrenia Research Forum on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April. Participants from US, Europe and beyond registered for this live event. Ian also received much media interest, both nationally and internationally, on the publication of his paper on the topic of psychotic symptoms in young people in the British Journal of Psychiatry on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> April. The research received widespread media attention with articles and interviews in the Irish Times, News at One, 6 and 9 o'clock TV news and the BBC.

Research led by **Dr Tobias Engel** from **David Henshall's** laboratory, along with collaborators in Madrid, recently reported the identification of a new type of anticonvulsant drug. The work showed inhibitors of the ATP-activated P2X7 receptor potently suppressed seizures, possibly opening up new avenues for anti-epileptic drug development. The study also showed that specific populations of excitable cells begin to over-produce the protein after injury to the brain which may contribute to a lasting predisposition to seizures. The work, funded by the Health Research Board, is published in this month's edition of the FASEB Journal" <http://www.fasebj.org/content/26/4/1616.abstract>

**Professor David Croke** Congratulations to **David Croke** on being unanimously elected to the role of Vice-Chairman of the Quality Assurance Committee of the Intercollegiate Committee for Basic Surgical Examinations of the four UK & Ireland Surgical Royal Colleges.

**Professor Clive Lee** has been conferred with an Honorary Fellow of Trinity College Dublin. This recognises over 20 years of interdisciplinary research involving anatomists from RCSI and engineers from Trinity.

**Professor John Waddington** We invite you to join us in congratulating **John Waddington** (MCT) on a very significant honour that has been conferred upon him. At the recent conference of the Schizophrenia International Research Society in Florence, the inaugural Basic Science Award was conferred on John by Professor Sir Robin Murray, FRS, President of the Society. The citation for outstanding achievement included "Over a 30-year career his teams have devoted themselves to basic and clinical research relating to schizophrenia, during which they have published >400 articles, chapters and books, including articles in Nature, Science, PNAS, Lancet and BMJ. He has been a global ambassador who has involved himself consistently in additional academic and professional responsibilities to support and advance our field".

Congratulations to **Kevin McGuigan** on using his influence (as Chair of the Institute of Physics of Ireland, among other skills!) in getting such a prestigious set of speakers to RCSI for the '**Physics High Flyers**' event. It's a great showcase for us. The event is part of the 2012 Dublin City of Science Festival, and will take place in the College on Saturday May 5th. This public event is open to anybody who would like to hear some of the most influential scientists in the World speak in an informal atmosphere about their careers, research and the future of Physics and Science in general Speakers include:

**Prof. Jerome Friedman** - 1990 Physics Nobel Prize Winner who uncovered the first experimental evidence that protons had an internal structure. **Prof. Margaret Murnane** - 2011 RDS Irish Times Boyle Medal Winner who is an Irish Physicist at the very forefront of ultra-short pulsed laser research. **Prof. Anton Zeilinger** - 2010 Physics Wolf Prize Winner who is a world-renowned pioneer in the field of quantum information and quantum optics. **Prof. Henry Kapteyn** - 2010 Schawlow Prize Winner whose pioneering work has pushed X-ray source research to the very brink of laser-like technology. **Prof. Cecilia Jarlskog** - 2011-2014 President of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics .

### **MERCER HEALTH CENTRE**

Congratulations to **Killian McGrogan**. The 'Travel Safely Information Booklet' has been shortlisted for Category A in the 2012 Crystal Clear MSD Health Literacy Awards. This year's awards received over 140 entries and the judges were very impressed with both the volume and the exceptionally high standard of entries. We wish him the best of luck at the awards ceremony on **Monday 14th May** when the winner will be announced.

### **MERCER LIBRARY**

Congratulations to **Julia Christopher**, Information Resources Management Librarian in Mercer Library, who was a successful applicant for an AGI bursary worth €1000 to attend the 2012 Annual UK Serials Group Conference held in Glasgow from 26-28 March.

### **FACULTY OF NURSING**

#### **New RCSI National Advanced Practice Nurse/Midwife (ANP/AMP) Forum launched**

The Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery, RCSI launched the ANP/AMP Forum at their 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Research Conference. A large group of ANP/AMPs, and those with an interest in advanced practice attended a master class that was delivered by Professor Regina Cusson, a Certified Neonatal Nurse Practitioner and coordinator of the University of Connecticut USA Neonatal Nurse Practitioner Programme. The Forum will have a strong educational and research focus based on the requirements of the members. It will also provide an opportunity for sharing knowledge and offer guidance regarding educational and research matters while complimenting the work of An Bord Altranais and the Irish Association of Advanced Nurse Midwives Practitioners. The first education and research session for ANP/AMPs will be held in RCSI on June 7<sup>th</sup> 2 – 4pm.

### **DEPARTMENT OF MOLECULAR MEDICINE**

**Gerard Higgins** (CMRF PhD scholar) has won the Best Presentation Prize at the European Cystic Fibrosis Basic Science Annual Meeting, St. Maxime, France. Gerry presented his work on novel actions of lipoxin on bacterial infection in CF, a collaborative project between RCSI and the National Children's Research Centre, Crumlin Hospital. Congratulations also to Post-doctoral fellows **Magda Mroz** and **Vinciane Saint-Criq** on winning best oral and poster presentations, respectively, at the RCSI Research Day.

### **DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS & GYNAECOLOGY**

There has been a new development in postgraduate training for gynaecologic endoscopy. **Dr. Ray O'Sullivan**, who is one of our Consultant Senior Lecturers in OBGYN, based in St. Luke's Hospital Kilkenny, has developed a new integrated training program in gynaecologic endoscopy for postgraduate trainees in OBGYN. He and our recently retired Associate Professor of OBGYN, **Walter Prendiville**, developed a unique endoscopy simulation box that trainees are given at the start of their training program. The trainees bring the simulator home and, after a number of mentored training sessions, they then practice selected endoscopy tasks at home. Dr. O'Sullivan has now gathered significant data to show that trainees' skills advance at a more significant rate using this new simulator compared with traditional endoscopy training.

Recently the London Deanery, which is responsible for training all OBGYN postgraduates in the greater London region, has started using this special course for all of its trainees . Of more significance is that the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists in the UK, and the British Society for Gynaecologic Endoscopy have decided to make **Dr. O'Sullivan's** endoscopy simulator training programme mandatory for all incoming OBGYN trainees in the United Kingdom. This is a tremendously exciting development which underscores the leadership role that the RCSI Department of OBGYN is taking in the area of postgraduate endoscopy training, with all credit going to Dr. O'Sullivan.

### **FINAL MEDICINE & SURGERY**

This week was the culmination of years of study, hard work and dedication for 215 final medicine students. Since February, students had completed clinical OSCEs, continuous assessment and a number of written papers before facing two days of clinical exams delivered in eight teaching hospitals across Ireland. A total of 159 examiners were on hand to put the students through their paces, and we were delighted to be joined by distinguished examiners from the US and Europe as well as to welcome back alumni to assist in this thorough assessment process. We are grateful to the patients and their families who agree to be examined by the students. My thanks also to **Prof Gerry McElvaney**, Senior Cycle Director and **Prof Arnie Hill**, **Dr Frances Meagher**, **Dr Muirne Spooner**, **Dr Paul Tibbitts**, **Dr Simon Rajendran**, **Dr Kevin Molloy** and all the Clinical Tutors, **Dr Claire Condron**, **Mr Kenny Franks**, the administrative teams in Beaumont and SSG and all the invigilators for the superb organisation of this very complex and worthwhile assessment event.

### **DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY**

Well done to **Frank Doyle**, **Anne Hickey** and **Karen Morgan** and **Orla McBride** in the **Department of Psychology** on turning a new JC1 student course project on health literacy into a journal publication.

### **BAHRAIN**

I attach a recent article written by Ed Husain in the New York Times on May 1st. I think it gives a really balanced view on the situation in Bahrain.

Best wishes

Cathal